

**BRUNSWICK HILLS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**  
**Special Meeting – 2026 Budget**  
**July 8, 2025**

The Brunswick Hills Township Board of Trustees met in special session on Tuesday, July 8 at Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall.

Board of Trustees Chair Christina Kusnerak, Vice-Chair Ryan Nixon, Trustee Patrica Murphy, Assistant Fire Chief Tim Haas, Police Chief Tim Sopkovich, and Service Department Foreman Cory Schultz present.

Kusnerak called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and noted the meeting was properly advertised.

Assistant Fire Chief Tim Haas reported that the Fire Department's budget will be increasing line item for Salaries to accommodate the annual hourly wage increase in January 2026. Also increase in medical/hospitalization. Haas also noted that the line item Maintenance/Repairs is increasing, due to all SCBA bottles need to be hydrostatically tested in 2026, these tests need to be done every 5 years. There will also be an increase in Improvement of Sites for a new Alerting system for station 2. There seems to be a problem at Station 2 with reliably receiving dispatch alerts.

Police Chief Sopkovich noted that the Police Department's budget is increasing in salaries, benefits, medical/hospitalization and uniforms. The budget also includes an increase in property insurance. The total 2026 budget for the Police Department is \$2,681,000.00. Police Chief Sopkovich noted that the 5 year operating levy for the Police Department will expire in December 2026. Police Chief Sopkovich stated that the Police Department is in need of two more Officers. He would need to budget \$240,000 for 2 more officers. Chief Sopkovich asked if the general fund could pick up the portion of his budget that is set for Purchased Services including water, sewer, electricity, insurance, vehicles, dispatch, etc., that would free up \$295,000 which would enable him to hire two more Officers. If the general fund picked up those purchased services for the PD, then that would keep the PD operating with two new officers for at least the next ten years without having to go back to the residents for an increase in the levy.

Murphy asked about the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Police Chief Sopkovich stated that the money comes from the sale of vehicles and seized property and is usually used to purchase needed equipment. Kusnerak asked if there were any restrictions on that money and what it can be used for. Chief Sopkovich stated there are no restrictions.

Nixon asked about the split of the dispatch invoice. Murphy noted that for the 2025 Budget, the percentage split for the dispatch contract with the City of Brunswick between the Fire and Police Departments, the FD portion was already increased to 22%. It was noted that for 2026 the Fire Department will pay 22% and the Police Department will pay 78% of the dispatch invoice.

Service Foreman Schultz stated the 2026 Service budget will be decreasing from \$1.5 million in 2025 to \$1.3 million for 2026. Which includes an increase of \$15,000 in 2026 for concrete and about a 6% increase in Medical/Hospitalization from \$89,000 in 2025 to \$95,000 in 2026. Everything else stays the same.

Kusnerak stated that for the General Fund it will likely stay the same unless there is something that needs to be addressed. Only thing would be if the Trustee Salaries would increase in January 2026 but we should have enough funds in there to accommodate for that.

Nixon asked where Fuel is accounted for in the budget. Kusnerak said to look under 1000-130 for zoning. Chief Sopkovich asked to say something about Fuel. He stated that if the Township had its own Fuel Source located at the Service Department it would save a lot of money for all the departments and for the Township versus paying for commercial fuel. Service Foreman Cory Schultz stated we are one of the only Townships around that does not have their own Fuel Source. Nixon asked what the savings would be. Both Police Chief Sopkovich and Service Foreman Schultz stated it would vary depending on the price of fuel but would probably be in the range of \$1 a gallon. It was agreed for Service Foreman Cory Schultz to get some quotes and then meet again the week of the 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss this further.

Kusnerak motioned to adjourn at 5:30 PM. Murphy seconded. Murphy – yes. Kusnerak – yes. Nixon – yes. Motion carried.

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Christina Kusnerak, Trustee Chair

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Ryan Nixon, Trustee Vice-Chair

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Patrica Murphy, Trustee

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Bob Roksandich, Fiscal Officer